

Appln. No. 09/696,114
Amendment dated August 13, 2004
Reply to Office Action of May 19, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the present application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

The May 19, 2004 Office Action and the Examiner's comments have been carefully considered. In response, claims are amended and remarks are set forth below in a sincere effort to place the present application in form for allowance. The amendments are supported by the application as originally filed. Therefore, no new matter is added.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC 112

In the Office Action, claims 124, 126-128, 130-137, 139-141, 144, 146 and 149-167 are rejected under the second paragraph of 35 USC 112 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. In response, claims 124, 144 and 147 are amended to overcome the indefiniteness rejection.

Claims 124, 126-128, 130-137, 139-141 and 150 are rejected under the second paragraph of 35 USC 112 as being incomplete for omitting essential structural cooperative relationships of elements. In response, claims 124 and 150 are amended to overcome the rejection.

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In view of the amendment of the claims, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under the second paragraph of 35 USC 112 are respectfully requested.

PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

In the Office Action claims 124, 126-128, 130-137, 139, 140, 142, 144, 145 and 147-167 are rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over USP 4,839,829 (Freedman) in view of USP 6,233,684 (Stefik et al.). Claims 141, 162 and 164 are rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Freedman and Stefik et al., and further in view of USP 6,131,162 (Yoshiura et al.).

In response, claim 124 is amended to more clearly recite the print service station of the book copying system. In addition, claim 142 is amended to be dependent on claim 124.

In the present claimed invention as defined by claim 124, a print service station is connected to a network and is installed at a place where a user operates a print section to make a print of a document, and the user operates an input device so as to input a print order to print a copy of an ordered book. The print service station has an input device, and a print managing section to communicate with the data service system so as to obtain image data of the ordered book from the data storage

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section through the network and the print section to print a copy of the ordered book based on the obtained image data.

As described on page 94, lines 7-12 of the present application, in the present claimed invention, the print service station (printer client 40) is installed at, for example, a convenience store or a library, where a user operates an input device so as to input a print order to print a copy of an ordered book. The term "customer" has been changed to -- user -- in the claims so that the terms used in the claims correspond to the terminology used in the Detailed Description.

At the print service station, the user can (1) place an order through the input device to print a copy of an ordered book, (2) obtain image data of the ordered book from the data storage section through the network, and (3) print a copy of the ordered book based on the obtained image data (see page 94, lines 13-24 of the present application).

In Freedman, as illustrated in Fig. 1A, a user facility and a printer facility are distally located and connected through a network. That is, in Freedman, a user must employ a user facility which is independent from a printer facility.

Accordingly, Freedman does not disclose, teach or suggest the use of a printer facility as a user facility. In other words, in Freedman, a user cannot place an order to print a copy

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of an ordered book at the print facility. In addition, a user cannot obtain image data of the ordered book from a data service station at the print facility.

In contrast, in the present claimed invention, since a user can use a printer facility as a user facility to place an order to print a copy of a book, a user facility connected with a printer facility through a network is not required.

Similar to Freedman, Stefik et al. (see Fig. 16) teach the use of a consumer workstation connected to a print store through a publisher and a network.

Accordingly, even if Freedman and Stefik et al. are taken in combination, it would not have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to arrive at the present claimed invention wherein at a print service station, a user can obtain a copy of a document and further a user can (1) place an order to print a copy of an ordered book with the input device, (2) obtain image data of the ordered book from the data storage section through the network, and (3) print a copy of the ordered book based on the obtained image data.

That is, the present claimed invention as defined by claim 124 is patentable over the cited references because the references do not disclose, teach or suggest a book copying

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system for copying a book based on electronic image data obtained through a network, including:

a print service station connected to the network and installed at a place where a user operates a print section to make a print of a document and a user operates an input section to input a print order of the user to print a copy of an ordered book, the print service station having the input device, a print managing section to communicate with the data service system so as to obtain image data of the ordered book from the data storage section through the network and the print section to print a copy of the ordered book based on the obtained image data (see claim 124, lines 9-20).

Claims 126-128, 130-137, 139-142, 144, 145 and 147-167 are either directly or indirectly dependent on claim 124 and are patentable over the cited references in view of their dependence on claim 124 and because the references do not disclose, teach or suggest each of the limitations set forth in the dependent claims.

None of the other references of record close the gap between the present claimed invention as defined by the claims and Freedman, taken either alone or in combination with Stefik et al.

In view of the foregoing, claims 124, 126-128, 130-137, 139-142, 144, 145 and 147-167 are patentable over the cited references under 35 USC 102 as well as 35 USC 103.

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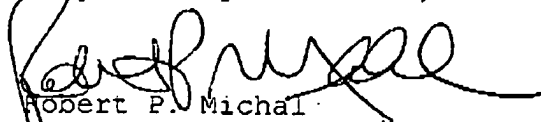
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Entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner disagrees with any of the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to point out where there is support for a contrary view.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,



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